(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) The Central Government have not fixed the fee chargeable by the private doctors. However, as per the Code of Medical Ethics prescribed for the doctors, a physician should announce his fee to the patients before rendering services and not after operation or treatment is under way.

Purchase of machines in different hospitals in Delhi

†807. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of machines bought separately for different hospitals in Delhi for conducting various types of tests during the last five years;

(b) the number of machines out of the said machines lying out of order as on October 31, 2001 and since when;

(c) the total amount spent on maintenance and repairs of various types of machines during the last five years; and

(d) by when Government will get these machines repaired?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVLOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Strong public health system in the country

808. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are of the opinion that stronger public health system is the only answer to bio-terrorism; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken for strong public health system in the country?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A Statement is attached. *[Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 797 Part (a) and (b)]*

Flourishing of Spurious Drug Trade

809. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the spurious drug trade is flourishing throughout the country, as brought out in a recent raid on several establishments in the biggest wholesale market of medicines of North India at Delhi where out of 53 drug samples, including those of life saving medicines, picked up randomly, only four were found to be genuine;

(b) if so, broad estimate of this illegal trade and the details of the follow-up action taken so far, including prosecutions launched, in the recent cases; and

(c) the details of existing machinery to check this dangerous spurious drug trade and fresh measures initiated to monitor this nefarious trend?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the problem of the manufacture and sale of spurious drugs. This is a clandestine activity indulged in by some unscrupulous and anti-social persons. So far as Delhi Sate is concerned, Delhi Police in association with the Drugs Control department of Government of NCT Delhi seized on 4th July, 2001 large stocks of allegedly spurious drugs from unlicensed persons godowns located in and around Bhagirath Place, Delhi.

As per the information available, they recovered stock seized drugs worth Rs. 3,15,90,281 and machinery of approximate value of Rs. 75,00,000. In all 6 accused have been arrested in this case. The interrogation of the accused persons connected in this case led to the detection of manufacturing unit at Murthal, Haryana which was functioning without any Valid licence.

Ten samples of drugs were collected by the Drugs Inspectors out of which three have been reported spurious. Besides, Delhi Police seized unclaimed drugs from unlicensed godowns, out of which 53 drugs were sent to the original manufacturers for verifying their genuineness and only 4 drugs were reported as